

Sec. 57.002. APPOINTMENT OF INTERPRETER OR CART PROVIDER; CART PROVIDER LIST.

SECTION 3. Section 57.002, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (b) and adding Subsection (f) to read as follows:

(a) A court shall appoint a certified court interpreter or a certified CART provider for an individual who has a hearing impairment or a licensed court interpreter for an individual who can hear but does not comprehend or communicate in English if a motion for the appointment of an interpreter or provider is filed by a party or requested by a witness in a civil or criminal proceeding in the court.

(b) A court may, on its own motion, appoint a certified court interpreter or a certified CART provider for an individual who has a hearing impairment or a licensed court interpreter for an individual who can hear but does not comprehend or communicate in English.

(f) The department shall maintain a list of certified CART providers and, on request, may send the list to a person or court.

SECTION 4. Subdivision (6), Section 57.001, and Subsection (d), Section 57.021, Government Code, are repealed.

SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

Passed the Senate on April 25, 2013: Yeas 30, Nays 0; the Senate concurred in House amendment on May 25, 2013: Yeas 30, Nays 0; passed the House, with amendment, on May 22, 2013: Yeas 148, Nays 0, two present not voting.

Approved June 14, 2013.

Effective June 14, 2013.

CHAPTER 1224

S.B. No. 1630

AN ACT

relating to the protection of defendants against vexatious litigants.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Subdivision (5), Section 11.001, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, is amended to read as follows:

(5) "Plaintiff" means an individual who commences or maintains a litigation *pro se*.

SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 11, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, is amended by adding Section 11.002 to read as follows:

Sec. 11.002. **APPLICABILITY.** (a) This chapter does not apply to an attorney licensed to practice law in this state unless the attorney proceeds *pro se*.

(b) This chapter does not apply to a municipal court.

SECTION 3. Section 11.054, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 11.054. **CRITERIA FOR FINDING PLAINTIFF A VEXATIOUS LITIGANT.** A court may find a plaintiff a vexatious litigant if the defendant shows that there is not a reasonable probability that the plaintiff will prevail in the litigation against the defendant and that:

(1) the plaintiff, in the seven-year period immediately preceding the date the defendant makes the motion under Section 11.051, has commenced, prosecuted, or maintained [in

~~propria persona~~] at least five litigations as a *pro se litigant* other than in a small claims court that have been:

- (A) finally determined adversely to the plaintiff;
 - (B) permitted to remain pending at least two years without having been brought to trial or hearing; or
 - (C) determined by a trial or appellate court to be frivolous or groundless under state or federal laws or rules of procedure;
- (2) after a litigation has been finally determined against the plaintiff, the plaintiff repeatedly relitigates or attempts to relitigate, *pro se* ~~[in propria persona]~~, either:
- (A) the validity of the determination against the same defendant as to whom the litigation was finally determined; or
 - (B) the cause of action, claim, controversy, or any of the issues of fact or law determined or concluded by the final determination against the same defendant as to whom the litigation was finally determined; or
- (3) the plaintiff has previously been declared to be a vexatious litigant by a state or federal court in an action or proceeding based on the same or substantially similar facts, transition, or occurrence.

SECTION 4. Section 11.101, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (d) and (e) to read as follows:

(a) A court may, on its own motion or the motion of any party, enter an order prohibiting a person from filing, *pro se* ~~[in propria persona]~~, a new litigation in a court to which the order applies under this section without permission of the appropriate local administrative judge described by Section 11.102(a) to file the litigation ~~[in this state]~~ if the court finds, after notice and hearing as provided by Subchapter B, that:

- ~~[(1)]~~ the person is a vexatious litigant; ~~and~~
- ~~[(2)] the local administrative judge of the court in which the person intends to file the litigation has not granted permission to the person under Section 11.102 to file the litigation.~~

(d) A *prefiling order* entered under Subsection (a) by a justice or constitutional county court applies only to the court that entered the order.

(e) A *prefiling order* entered under Subsection (a) by a district or statutory county court applies to each court in this state.

SECTION 5. Section 11.102, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 11.102. PERMISSION BY LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE. (a) A vexatious litigant subject to a *prefiling order* under Section 11.101 is prohibited from filing, *pro se*, new litigation in a court to which the order applies without seeking the permission of:

- (1) the local administrative judge of the type of court in which the vexatious litigant intends to file, except as provided by Subdivision (2); or
- (2) the local administrative district judge of the county in which the vexatious litigant intends to file if the litigant intends to file in a justice or constitutional county court.

(b) A vexatious litigant subject to a *prefiling order* under Section 11.101 who files a request seeking permission to file a litigation shall provide a copy of the request to all defendants named in the proposed litigation.

(c) The appropriate local administrative judge described by Subsection (a) may make a determination on the request with or without a hearing. If the judge determines that a hearing is necessary, the judge may require that the vexatious litigant filing a request under Subsection (b) provide notice of the hearing to all defendants named in the proposed litigation.

(d) The appropriate [A] local administrative judge described by Subsection (a) may grant permission to a ~~[person found to be a]~~ vexatious litigant subject to a *prefiling order* under Section 11.101 to file a litigation only if it appears to the judge that the litigation:

- (1) has merit; and

(2) has not been filed for the purposes of harassment or delay.

(e)[(b)] The *appropriate* local administrative judge described by Subsection (a) may condition permission on the furnishing of security for the benefit of the defendant as provided in Subchapter B.

(f)[(e)] A decision of the *appropriate* [a] local administrative judge described by Subsection (a) denying a litigant permission to file a litigation under Subsection (d) [(a)], or conditioning permission to file a litigation on the furnishing of security under Subsection (e) [(b)], is not grounds for appeal, except that the litigant may apply for a writ of mandamus with the with the court of appeals not later than the 30th day after the date of the decision. The denial of a writ of mandamus by the court of appeals is not grounds for appeal to the supreme court or court of criminal appeals.

SECTION 6. The heading to Section 11.103, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 11.103. DUTIES OF CLERK[; ~~MISTAKEN FILING~~].

SECTION 7. Subsections (a), (c), and (d), Section 11.103, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) Except as provided by Subsection (d), a clerk of a court may not file a litigation, original proceeding, appeal, or other claim presented, *pro se*, by a vexatious litigant subject to a prefiling order under Section 11.101 unless the litigant obtains an order from the *appropriate* local administrative judge described by Section 11.102(a) permitting the filing.

(c) If the *appropriate* local administrative judge described by Section 11.102(a) issues an order permitting the filing of the litigation [~~under Subsection (b)~~], the litigation remains stayed and the defendant need not plead until the 10th day after the date the defendant is served with a copy of the order.

(d) A clerk of a court of appeals may file an appeal from a prefiling order entered under Section 11.101 designating a person a vexatious litigant or a timely filed writ of mandamus under Section 11.102 [~~11.102(e)~~].

SECTION 8. Subchapter C, Chapter 11, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, is amended by adding Section 11.1035 to read as follows:

Sec. 11.1035. *MISTAKEN FILING.* (a) *If the clerk mistakenly files litigation presented, pro se, by a vexatious litigant subject to a prefiling order under Section 11.101 without an order from the appropriate local administrative judge described by Section 11.102(a), any party may file with the clerk and serve on the plaintiff and the other parties to the litigation a notice stating that the plaintiff is a vexatious litigant required to obtain permission under Section 11.102 to file litigation.*

(b) *Not later than the next business day after the date the clerk receives notice that a vexatious litigant subject to a prefiling order under Section 11.101 has filed, pro se, litigation without obtaining an order from the appropriate local administrative judge described by Section 11.102(a), the clerk shall notify the court that the litigation was mistakenly filed. On receiving notice from the clerk, the court shall immediately stay the litigation and shall dismiss the litigation unless the plaintiff, not later than the 10th day after the date the notice is filed, obtains an order from the appropriate local administrative judge described by Section 11.102(a) permitting the filing of the litigation.*

(c) *An order dismissing litigation that was mistakenly filed by a clerk may not be appealed.*

SECTION 9. Section 11.104, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, is amended by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c) *The Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System may not remove the name of a vexatious litigant subject to a prefiling order under Section 11.101 from the agency's Internet website unless the office receives a written order from the court that entered the prefiling order or from an appellate court. An order of removal affects only a prefiling order entered under Section 11.101 by the same court. A court of appeals decision reversing a prefiling order entered under Section 11.101 affects only the validity of an order entered by the reversed court.*

SECTION 10. Subdivision (3), Section 11.001, and Subsection (b), Section 11.103, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, are repealed.

SECTION 11. The change in law made by this Act applies only to an action commencing on or after the effective date of this Act. An action commencing before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law as it existed on the date when the action commenced, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 12. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

Passed the Senate on April 25, 2013: Yeas 30, Nays 0; the Senate concurred in House amendment on May 25, 2013: Yeas 30, Nays 0; passed the House, with amendment, on May 22, 2013: Yeas 148, Nays 0, two present not voting.

Approved June 14, 2013.

Effective September 1, 2013.

CHAPTER 1225

S.B. No. 1635

AN ACT

relating to the transfer of the assets of and the dissolution of the Dallas County Water Control and Improvement District No. 6.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

(1) "City" means the City of Balch Springs.

(2) "District" means the Dallas County Water Control and Improvement District No. 6.

SECTION 2. TRANSFER OF ASSETS AND DISSOLUTION OF DISTRICT. (a) On the date the city council of the city passes a resolution accepting the assets, debts, and contractual rights and obligations of the district:

(1) all assets, debts, and contractual rights and obligations of the district are property of the city; and

(2) the district is dissolved.

(b) The city shall notify the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality of the dissolution of the district.

SECTION 3. NOTICE. (a) The legal notice of the intention to introduce this Act, setting forth the general substance of this Act, has been published as provided by law, and the notice and a copy of this Act have been furnished to all persons, agencies, officials, or entities to which they are required to be furnished under Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution, and Chapter 313, Government Code.

(b) The governor, one of the required recipients, has submitted the notice and Act to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

(c) The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has filed its recommendations relating to this Act with the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the house of representatives within the required time.

(d) All requirements of the constitution and laws of this state and the rules and procedures of the legislature with respect to the notice, introduction, and passage of this Act are fulfilled and accomplished.

SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect October 1, 2013.

Passed the Senate on May 7, 2013: Yeas 29, Nays 0; passed the House on May 22, 2013: Yeas 148, Nays 0, two present not voting.

Approved June 14, 2013.

Effective October 1, 2013.